

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 14, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-7 and 18 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims are being amended. Claims 8-17 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application. In addition, new claim 18 is hereby submitted for consideration.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Objections

Claim

Claim 3-7 and 10-17 were objected to on the grounds of informalities.

As set forth above, claims 3-7 are being rewritten in proper form, and claims 10-17 are being withdrawn. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby provisionally elects the continued prosecution of the invention identified as Group I, and correspondingly recited in claims 1-7 without traverse.

Formal Rejection

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is being amended so as to meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yunan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,632,348). As mentioned above, claims 8 and 9 are being cancelled, and therefore, the rejections of claims 8 and 9 are moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 2 for the reasons set forth below.

According to the M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a), (b), and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Claim 1

In a method for detonation of a blasting charge as recited in claim 1, the blasting charge is in a fluid environment, and is placed inside a hollow body. The hollow body is arranged so as to be deformed under influence of a number of alternating or pulsating high and low pressures in the fluid environment, and a detonation triggering unit inside the hollow body is activated under subsequent contact with the fluid environment as a consequence of the hollow body being deformed.

In Yunan, a shaped charge 58 is positioned in a canister 46. A rupture disc 66 including a circular groove for improving initiation reliability is placed on a primary charge 72 and a base charge 74 above the shaped charge 58. A housing 94 extending upwardly from a shell 64 contains a fluid medium 99 which serves as a transmission means for conveying a pressure wave or pulse to the rupture disc 66. (See col. 7, lines 1-2, 15-20, and 58-60, col. 8, lines 1-12, Figs. 4-5 and 7.) However, Yunan does not show or suggest that none of the shaped charge 58, the primary charge 72 and the base charge 74 is in a fluid environment. Thus, Yunan cannot and does not show or suggest that a hollow body is arranged so as to be deformed under influence of a number of alternating or pulsating high and low pressures in the fluid environment, and a detonation triggering unit inside the hollow body is activated under subsequent contact with the fluid environment as a consequence of the hollow body being deformed, as recited in claim 1.

As such, Yunan does not show every element recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Yunan.

Claim 2

As to dependent claims 2, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claim 2 must also be allowable.

The Second 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Each of claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Beaverson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,040,463). As mentioned above, claims 8 and 9 are being cancelled, and therefore, the rejection of claims 8 and 9 is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-2 for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1

Beaverson shows that a detonator 14 is disposed in a chamber 42 within a housing 18. (See col. 2, lines 60-62 and Fig. 1.) Although Beaverson shows that an annular groove 36 is aligned circumferentially with an inner edge of the annular shoulder of a detonator holder 28 in the chamber 42 such that a clear break of a firing pin holder portion 34 from a flange 32 occurs when subject to a selected high pressure, Beaverson does not show or suggest that none of the shaped charge 58, the primary charge 72 and the base charge 74 is in a fluid environment. Thus, Beaverson cannot and does not show or suggest that a hollow body is arranged so as to be deformed under influence of a number of alternating or pulsating high and low pressures in the fluid environment, and a detonation triggering unit inside the hollow body is activated under subsequent contact with the fluid environment as a consequence of the hollow body being deformed, as recited in claim 1.

As such, Beaverson does not show every element recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Beaverson.

Claim 2

As to dependent claims 2, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claim 2 must also be allowable.

Claims 3-7, 18

As to dependent claims 3-7 and 18, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 3-7 and 18 must also be allowable.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 5, neither Yunan nor Beaverson shows or suggests that compression and stretching, respectively, are carried out by a counter-effect and co-operating effect, respectively, of a spring in connection to the hollow body.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 6, neither Yunan nor Beaverson shows or suggests that deformation resulting from pressure pulses is concentrated to an area of the hollow body so that a groove is cut into a solid metal material and a gradually larger crack through the solid material of the wall is provided in the area, and finally gives the fluid access to a hollow space of the hollow body.

In sum, claims 3-7 and 18 are not anticipated by Yunan or Beaverson.

Conclusion

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

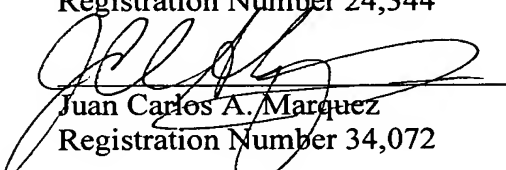
Applicant respectfully submits that Norwegian Patent corresponding to the present application has been issued as No. 322871.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to

contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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